IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

At page 1, line 5, under "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", please insert

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REFERENCES TO PARENT AND CO-PENDING APPLICATIONS

This application claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/107,363 entitled "Method for Treating Tumors Using Fas-Induced Apoptosis", filed on November 6, 1998; and PCT Application No. PCT/US99/26221 entitled "A Method of Treating Tumors Using Fas-Induced Apoptosis", filed on November 5, 1999 and published on May 18, 2000, International Publication No. WO 00/27883. The above applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

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IN THE ABSTRACT

At page 49, please delete the abstract and insert

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ABSTRACT

Methods and expression vectors are provided for inducing death in cells that express an apoptosis-mediating receptor. The method comprises: introducing an expression vector into a group of cells comprising cells that express an apoptosis-mediating receptor, such as a receptor for Fas or Fas-like ligand. The expression vector comprises a polynucleotide sequence encoding an apoptosis-signaling ligand such as Fas or Fas-like ligand whose expression is regulated by a conditional promoter in the vector. The cells into which the expression vector is introduced express the apoptosis-signaling ligand when conditions are suitable to activate the conditional promoter. The expressed apoptosis-signaling ligand induces cell death in those cells which express the apoptosis-mediating receptor through interaction between the apoptosis-signaling ligand and the apoptosis-mediating receptor. The methods and expression vectors can be used for treating tumors in a controlled and site-specific manner.

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-46.

Please add the following new claims.

47. A method for inducing death in cells that express an apoptosis-mediating receptor, the method comprising:

introducing an expression vector into a group of cells comprising cells that express an apoptosis-mediating receptor, the expression vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding an apoptosis-signaling ligand whose expression is regulated by a conditional promoter in the vector, the cells into which the expression vector is introduced expressing the apoptosis-signaling ligand when conditions are suitable to activate the conditional promoter, the expressed apoptosis-signaling ligand inducing cell death in those cells which express the apoptosis-mediating receptor through interaction between the apoptosis-signaling ligand and the apoptosis-mediating receptor.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the apoptosis-mediating receptor is a membrane-bound receptor.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the membrane-bound receptor is Fas.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein the apoptosis-signaling ligand is capable of binding to Fas.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the apoptosis-signaling ligand is an antibody that is capable of binding to Fas and signals Fas-mediated apoptosis in cells expressing Fas.

52. The method of claim 50, wherein the apoptosis-signaling ligand is a membrane protein.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the membrane protein is FasL.

54. The method of claim 49, wherein the group of cells into which the expression vector is introduced comprises a mixture of cells which express Fas and cells which do not express Fas.

55. The method of claim 49, wherein the expression vector is introduced into cells which do not express Fas.

56. The method of claim 49, wherein the expression vector is introduced into cells which do express Fas.

57. The method of claim 49, wherein the expression vector is introduced into cells which do not express Fas and cells which do express Fas.

58. The method of claim 47, wherein the group of cells are contained in a solid tumor.

59. The method of claim 58, wherein the solid tumor is selected from the group consisting of breast, prostate, brain, bladder, pancreas, rectum, parathyroid, thyroid, adrenal, head and neck, colon, stomach, bronchi and kidney tumors.

60. The method of claim 47, wherein introducing an expression vector into the group of cells is performed parenterally, intraperitoneally, intravenously, intraartierally, transdermally, sublingually, intramuscularly, rectally, transbuccally, intranasally, liposomally, via inhalation, vaginally, intraoccularly, via local delivery by catheter or stent, subcutaneously, intraadiposally, intraarticularly, intrathecally, or in a slow release dosage form.

61. The method of claim 47, wherein introducing the expression vector is performed by direct injection of the expression vector among the group of cells.

62. The method of claim 47, wherein the expression vector is a plasmid.

63. The method of claim 47, wherein the expression vector is a viral vector.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, vaccinia, retrovirus, and herpes simplex virus vectors.

65. The method of claim 63, wherein the expression vector is an adenoviral vector.

66. The method of claim 47, wherein the conditional promoter is a tissue-specific promoter.

67. The method of claim 66, wherein the tissue-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of a prostate-specific promoter, a breast-specific promoter, a pancreas-specific promoter, a colon-specific promoter, a brain-specific promoter, a kidney-specific promoter, a bladder-specific promoter, a lung-specific promoter, a liver-specific promoter, a thyroid-specific promoter, a stomach-specific promoter, an ovary-specific promoter, and a cervix-specific promoter.

68. The method of claim 47, wherein the group of cells are prostate cancer cells and the conditional promoter of the expression vector is a prostate-specific promoter.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein the prostate-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of PSA, ΔPSA, ARR2PB, and PB promoters.

70. The method of claim 47, wherein the conditional promoter is an inducible promoter.

71. The method of claim 70, wherein the inducible promoter is a promoter inducible by tetracycline or doxycycline.

72. The method of claim 70, wherein the inducible promoter is a promoter inducible by steroid.

73. The method of claim 72, wherein the steroid is selected from the group consisting of glucocorticoid, estrogen, androgen, and progestrone.

74. The method of claim 47, the method further comprising creating the conditions suitable to activate the conditional promoter.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein creating the conditions suitable to activate the conditional promoter comprises delivering to the group of cells tetracycline or deoxycycline.

76. The method of claim 74, wherein creating the conditions suitable to activate the conditional promoter comprises delivering to the group of cells a steroid selected from the group consisting of glucocorticoid, estrogen, androgen, and progestrone .

77. The method of claim 47, wherein the expression vector further comprises a reporter gene.

78. The method of claim 77, wherein the expression vector expresses the reporter gene as a fusion protein with the apoptosis-signaling ligand.

79. The method of claim 78, wherein the reporter gene encodes green fluorescent protein.

80. The method of claim 47, wherein the expression vector further comprises a polynucleotide sequence encoding a regulatory protein.

81. The method of claim 80, wherein the expression vector expresses the regulatory protein as a fusion protein with the apoptosis-signaling ligand.

82. The method of claim 81, wherein the regulatory protein in the fusion protein is a protein that causes tissue-specific localization of the apoptosis-signaling ligand.

83. The method of claim 47, wherein the method is performed *ex vivo* where the group of cells into which the expression vector is introduced are contained in a sample taken from a patient having cancer.

84. The method of claim 47, wherein the method is performed *in vitro* where the group of cells into which the expression vector is introduced are contained in a cell culture.

85. The method of claim 47, wherein the apoptosis-signaling ligand is selected from the group consisting of Bax, Bad, Bak, and Bik.

86. An adenoviral expression vector comprising:

a conditional promoter, and

a polynucleotide sequence encoding a membrane-bound ligand whose expression is regulated by the conditional promoter in the vector, the ligand signaling apoptosis in cells that express an apoptosis-mediating receptor.

87. The vector of claim 86, wherein the membrane-bound ligand is capable of binding to Fas.

88. The method of claim 87, wherein the membrane-bound ligand is FasL.

89. The vector of claim 86, wherein the conditional promoter is a tissue-specific promoter.

90. The vector of claim 89, wherein the tissue-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of a prostate-specific promoter, a breast-specific promoter, a pancreas-specific promoter, a colon-specific promoter, a brain-specific promoter, a kidney-specific promoter, a bladder-specific promoter, a lung-specific promoter, a liver-specific promoter, a thyroid-specific promoter, a stomach-specific promoter, an ovary-specific promoter, and a cervix-specific promoter.

91. The vector of claim 89, wherein the tissue-specific promoter is a prostate-specific promoter.

92. The vector of claim 91, wherein the prostate-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of PSA, ΔPSA, ARR2PB, and PB promoters.

93. The vector of claim 86, wherein the conditional promoter is an inducible promoter.

94. The vector of claim 93, wherein the inducible promoter is a promoter inducible by tetracycline or doxycycline.

95. The vector of claim 93, wherein the inducible promoter is a promoter inducible by steroid.

96. The method of claim 95, wherein the steroid is selected from the group consisting of glucocorticoid, estrogen, androgen, and progestrone.

97. An adenoviral expression vector comprising:

a tetracycline-responsive element;

a polynucleotide sequence encoding a transactivator protein which is capable of binding to the tetracycline-responsive element; and

a polynucleotide sequence encoding a target protein whose expression is regulated by the binding of the transactivator protein to the tetracycline-responsive element.

98. The vector of claim 97, wherein the tetracycline-responsive element and the polynucleotide sequence encoding the transactivator protein are positioned at opposite ends of the adenoviral vector.

99. The vector of claim 98, wherein the tetracycline-responsive element is positioned in the E4 region of the adenoviral vector and the polynucleotide sequence encoding the transactivator protein is positioned in the E1 of the adenoviral vector.

100. The vector of claim 97, wherein the adenoviral vector does not include the E3 region of adenovirus.

101. The vector of claim 97, wherein the adenoviral vector does not include the E4 region of adenovirus except for the Orf6 of the E4 region.

102. The vector of claim 97, wherein the expression of the target protein is repressed in the presence of tetracycline or doxycycline.

103. The vector of claim 97, wherein expression of the target protein is activated in the presence of doxycycline.

104. The vector of claim 97, wherein the target protein is a Fas ligand.

105. The vector of claim 97, wherein the viral expression vector further comprises a polynucleotide sequence encoding a reporter protein.

106. The vector of claim 105, wherein the reporter protein and the target protein are encoded as a fusion protein.

107. The vector of claim 105, wherein the reporter protein is a green fluorescent protein.

108. The vector of claim 97, wherein the adenoviral expression vector further comprises a polynucleotide sequence encoding a regulatory protein.

109. The vector of claim 108, wherein the regulatory protein and the target protein are encoded as a fusion protein.

110. The vector of claim 109, wherein the regulatory protein in the fusion protein is a protein that causes tissue-specific localization of the target protein.

111. An adenoviral vector that is pAd_{TET}.

112. An adenoviral vector that is Ad/FasL-GFP_{TET}.

Support for independent claim 1 appears on page 9, lines 4-11.